

The Voice Of the People

(Contributions to this column are welcome subjects to the following conditions and rules. Letters should be plainly written on one side of the paper. The Editor reserves the usual right of editing. Letters on matters of religious controversy, personal attacks or containing libelous material will not be published. Letters in this department do not necessarily reflect the opinion of this paper. Short contributions are better than long ones. Keep contributions within 400 words.—Editor.)

CAN CRIME BE CHECKED?

One of the most pressing and alarming problems of the day is the ever-rising tide of crime. In spite of all measures that have been taken in all the large centers of population, theft and murder increase from day to day and from month to month. It is now generally conceded that to cure a disease you have to remove the cause. Our economic system is badly diseased, and crime is but a symptom. We can never effect a cure by simply treating the symptoms. Remove the cause and the symptoms will disappear. Statistics prove that we are making criminals faster than we reform them. Experience is the one great teacher and our most infallible guide, but when the teachings of experience run counter to the interests of those in power, the common people do not profit by its teachings. Crime is inherent in our economic system, in that it is based on an unchristian principle—the principle of getting more than we give, something for nothing. (See 5th chapter of James). The wage system is a crime-breeder from two causes: first, he receives only a part of that which rightly belongs to him; second, he is never sure of his job. As his inalienable right to labor is withheld, he has not a legal right to live. The first step to take in eradicating crime would be to take away the one and only excuse for crime—enforced idleness, or the want of a chance to earn an honest living.

We have vagrancy laws whereby a man with no job and no money can be arrested, thrown into jail, or put in the chain gang. I question the moral right of society to punish idleness without first providing labor for all. That kind of treatment tends to make criminals and enemies of society out of potential good citizens. If we as a so-called Christian nation sought seriously to apply the ethics of Christianity to government and social relations, our problems would disappear. Burns, the detective, in a recent interview asserted that there was no such thing as a born criminal—it was all in wrong environment, he said.

What a fearful arraignment of the environment we provide! And who should bear the most blame? We that make and perpetrate this environment, or the innocents we bring into this environment?

We enter life with talents for art, literature, science, and with right environment could leave the world a little better than we find it; but we are forced to spend most of our time scheming and fighting each other for the necessities of life. The trend of our environment is to degrade honest labor and put a premium on unearned wealth. Work under right conditions brings happiness, because work is creative and upbuilding—all progress is made by labor; "all the instincts of the human race which have been responsible for humanity's development have found their fulfillment only in work."

An English tourist's objection to this country was that there were no gentlemen. Pressed for an explanation as to what he meant by "gentlemen," he answered "A man who does not work."

"Oh," said the American, "we call them tramps."

We cannot question the fact that want of employment is a prolific cause of crime. In the great city

of Chicago the crime wave rises and falls according to the scarcity or abundance of work. Even in China they have found that the only way to cure banditry is to provide work, and now the government purposes to give employment by opening up the country with good roads. This will serve a two-fold purpose: It will develop a rich country, and make peaceable, industrious citizens out of roving bands of robbers—just as we subdued the savage Indian tribes.

Yours for labor and its reward,
R. GILHOVSEN.

McKINLEY INN

Mrs. McKinley and son Forrest were week-end guests of friends in Hollywood. While there they attended a performance of the Pilgrimage Play and "The Covered Wagon."

Allan Knight was a business visitor in Los Angeles Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Nutty and Miss Rena Nutty of Los Angeles were guests of Mrs. McKinley Friday.

Jos. Geddes was the guest of relatives at Watts Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. I. E. Bove move Thursday into their new home, recently purchased from A. Shriner, in the Keystone tract.

Recent arrivals at the inn are W. T. Fuller, Frank Healy, Los Angeles; Chas. Knox, San Diego; Ed Bohanon, Los Angeles; W. T. Cantorberry, Alhambra; J. D. Rettig, Taft; and F. T. Quinn, Blue Springs, Mo.

1st ANNIVERSARY SALE

The people of Torrance and vicinity are convinced that our sales are bona-fide and have responded accordingly. We prepared for big sales and are gratified with the results. Have large stocks remaining to choose from. New goods arriving every day, which we are selling at SALES PRICES, as long as the sale lasts. Come and see for yourself and be convinced.

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Chipso Powdered Soap	2-lb. package	25c
Flag Brand Tiny Lima Beans		25c
Flag Brand Stringless Beans		25c
Chewing Gum	3 for	10c
Shredded Wheat		10c
Quaker Puffed Wheat		12c
Quaker Puffed Rice		15c
Post Toasties		9c
Grape Nuts		16c
S. S. Black Tea	8 oz.	33c
S. S. Green Tea	8 oz.	30c
Lipton's Tea	8 oz.	45c
S. S. Olive Oil	1/2-pint	30c
Oak Glen Macaroni	3 packages	25c
Oak Glen Salad Oil	Small	19c

Happyvale Salmon	Tall can, 2 for	25c
Waldorf Toilet Paper	3 rolls	25c
Seelig's Bird Seed (The Best)	2 packages	25c

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CANNING SUPPLIES ARE MORE REASONABLE AT OUR STORES

Certo-For Jelly	33c	Best Ball Rubbers	3 dozen	25c
Parowax	1 lb.	10c	Lids, Jelly Glasses and Jars.	

Bishop's Cocoa	1 lb.	22c
Hill's and Ben Hur Coffee	1 lb.	43c
Wesson Oil	Pints 26c; Quarts	50c
Dromedary Coconut	1/2 lb.	16c; 1/2 lb. 30c

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has been completely eliminated. Although the sale has been going on for the past week we still have nice things left. We move to our new home soon and are selling our present stock at unheard of reductions. We suggest Friday and Saturday as good days to shop.

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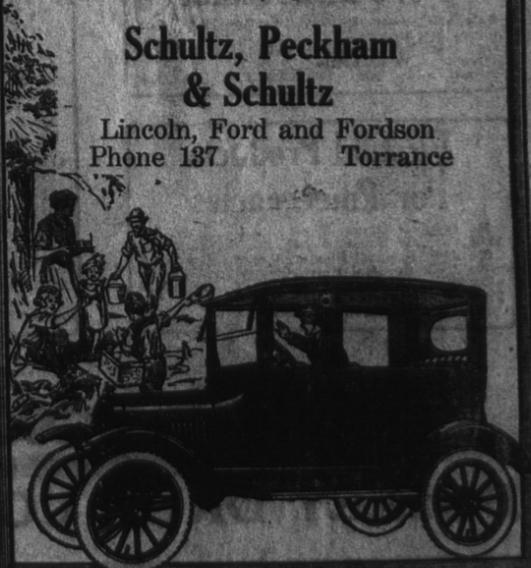
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